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Docket No.: R2184.0137/P137
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hideaki Hirai, et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: OPTICAL ELEMENT, OPTICAL
PICKUP UNIT, AND OPTICAL DISK
DRIVE UNIT

1c971 U.S. PTO
10/086442
03/04/02

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

In addition, the Examiner's attention is directed to the following U.S. patent applications: U.S. Patent applications Nos. 09/864,569, 09/800,586, 09/384,377, and 09/344,120, filed May 24 and March 8, 2001 and August 27 and June 24, 1999, respectively.

This Information Disclosure Statement accompanies the new patent application submitted herewith.

A copy of each reference on PTO/SB/08 is attached.

A summary/abstract translation of the non-English language references is enclosed.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1073, under Order No. R2184.0137/P137. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: March 4, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
		Filing Date	Herewith
		First Named Inventor	Hideaki Hirai
		Art Unit	N/A
		Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet 1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number	R2184.0137/P137	



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A	US-5,684,779			
	B	US-5,428,588			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	C	JP 6-295464	10-21-1994			
	D	JP 9-180207	07-11-1997			
	E	JP 11-261171	09-24-1999			

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.